

Eugenists will be grateful for the criticisms on page 230, of Davenport's advice that those who probably suffer from recessive defects, should marry into sound stocks. The contamination of good stocks by bad is only a sacrifice of good stocks in order to cover up a defect, which will eventually show itself in spite of all efforts; the more readily if the heterozygous condition be encouraged to have children.

In short, all depends upon the hereditary factors concerned. Both in and outbreeding are beneficial when performed by those of good heredity; the former will yield on the average the more immediate benefit. and Drs. East and Jones have done well to protest against the laws which prohibit cousin marriages in nearly half of the United States. Such laws influence only those whose cousin matings might be beneficial. On the contrary both in and outbreeding are harmful when practised by those of inferior heredity; and the more immediate harm of their inbreeding will not be prevented by marriage laws.

After twelve valuable chapters it is disappointing to find that the last on the intermingling of races is almost valueless. With the authors' practical opinions I am in full agreement, but it is not necessary to support one's opinions upon a specious web of conjectural ethnology. We know little enough, in all conscience, about the people of our own islands, but it is fairly clear that the Irish are not principally the product of the intermingling of two savage Mongolian tribes! R. A. F.

Fox, J. TYLOR, M.A., M.D. *The Care of Sane Epileptic Children.* John Bale, Sons and Danielsson, Ltd.; 1920; 1s. 6d.; pp. 39.

DR. Fox has written a very useful little monograph on the care of sane epileptic children. He has shown that it is impossible for these unfortunate little ones to obtain adequate care in their own homes, and the great importance of forming colonies for them where their special characteristics can be studied, and a scheme of education arranged fitted to their mental capacities.

The author describes the impressions he has received and the observations he has made during a period of 18 months for the greater part of which he has been the medical superintendent of the colony at Lingfield. He believes that considerable improvement can be obtained by diet, outdoor life, open windows and daily baths, and that "inhibition through rhythm may be regarded as a foundation principle of treatment." Regularity of hours should make life itself rhythmic, and he advises dances, rhythmic drill, and ambidextrous work as the best means of overcoming the irregular insubordinate action of certain motor centres to the higher centres of control, of which the fits are the manifestation.

The little book deserves commendation for its clearness of style. It enables the reader to gain in a short space of time a knowledge of what is being attempted in epileptic colonies and this is of considerable importance to the G. P. who is likely to be consulted as to the advisability of sending epileptic children to such colonies, the age at which they should be sent, and other important points in the treatment of this condition which is unfortunately only too common.

The relation of epilepsy to mental unsoundness, insisted on by the author, suggests that a knowledge of eugenics is the one hope of stamping it out. H. A. S. M.

Hughes, E. P. *The Education of a Nation.* Adam and Charles Black; price 8d.

WITHIN the compass of 64 pages Miss Hughes, well known as an educationist in connection with the Glamorgan Education Committee, has summarised with comprehensiveness and ability the salient aspects of the educational task. It is hard to select points for special reference, the ground covered is so considerable. The human being, we are told, must